

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

RESOLUTION NO. R7-2002-0131

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO EXPEDITE  
EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CORRECTIVE  
PROJECTS TO ADDRESS NEW RIVER POLLUTION

WHEREAS, the New River, which flows northward across the International Boundary from Mexico into California's Imperial Valley contains raw and inadequately treated sewage, toxic industrial wastes, trash and other solid wastes, and animal wastes from the Mexicali area of Mexico and is the most polluted river for its size in California; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Board adopted a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for pathogens in the New River, which was also adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board and approved by the State's Office of Administrative Law, and now awaits approval by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, unsatisfactory abatement of pollution by the United States Federal Government and Mexico have created a gross environmental injustice situation in the Calexico area and Imperial County; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Board has adopted numerous resolutions over many decades, most recently in 1993, requesting action from the United States Federal Government, which have not resulted in satisfactory improvements to the New River.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colorado River Basin Regional Board requests that:

1. The United States Federal Government recognizes the public health hazard in the Calexico area as an emergency crisis.
2. The United States Federal Government takes the appropriate steps with Mexico to initiate emergency measures to alleviate said crisis through the disinfection of domestic wastewaters and the elimination of raw sewage spills.
3. Certified copies of this resolution be sent to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States International Boundary and Water Commission, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board, and to others.

This resolution was adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, at its regular meeting on June 26, 2002.

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Phil Gruenberg  
Executive Officer